



Comprehensive Management Plan Project Update, January 30, 2006

The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial ends in 2006, so staff at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail have begun a legacy project – update and revision of the Comprehensive Management Plan. In the next five years, a National Park Service multi-disciplinary team will consult with Trail partners and the general public to write a plan that will guide collaborative management of the historic corridor. The trail partners and partnerships that have developed, especially in the Bicentennial years, will play a critical role in ensuring a comprehensive review of the Trail. The sheer volume of partner and public input expected will require Trail staff to conduct about 125 public meetings, nearly 100 of them with tribal nations alone. The planning effort will be coordinated with the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Army, Treasury, and Transportation, 46 tribal nations, and the 11 Trail State governments. The CMP Team is being assembled. Its first public outreach will be with the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission in Topeka on April 25 and the Missouri Commission on March 26.



partnering centers in various jurisdictions.

Historic Background: The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LECL) was authorized by the National Trails System Act (NTSA) of 1978, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service (NPS), and permitting the use of NPS authorities. The NTSA describes the trail as approximately 3,700 miles, extending from Wood River, Illinois, to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon, following the outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806. The trail extends through 11 states and many federal, tribal nation, state, county, local, and private jurisdictions. There are 11 official LECL interpretive centers and dozens of unofficial

In 1982, the Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use, more commonly referred to as the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), was completed for LECL. It analyzed the Congressional intent of the NTSA and outlined major areas of LECL administration, including legislative authorities and requirements, management objectives, management practices, management responsibilities, and cooperating interests. It emphasized the importance of partnerships between federal, state, and local agencies, private organizations, corporations, and individuals in trail administration, and the respective roles of each. Because LECL was a new National Historic Trail, the bulk of the 1982 CMP was devoted to describing the sites, segments, and motor routes recommended as components of the trail. From 1982 to 1999, the LECL partnership worked on establishing and marking those components. In the late 1990's, interest in and committing human and fiscal resources to the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition grew exponentially and the partnership began focusing on planning the national commemoration. At the conclusion of the Bicentennial in September 2006, the partnership will shift its focus to efforts and activities necessary to address the major areas of trail administration such as cultural and natural resources preservation and protection, interpretation and education, and outdoor recreation.



NPS Photo

